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# Women Veterans Informer

## Volume 2, Issue 7 - Women Veterans Informer

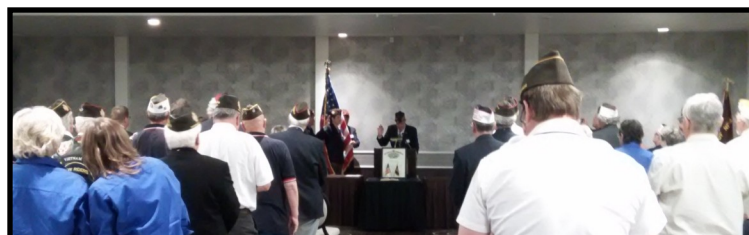


### State of Nevada Proudly Presents:

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Nevada

During the Nevada State Convention the VFW announced it newest Commander, Donna M. Barnett on June 13, 2015 in Las Vegas, NV. Donna Barnett, is the first woman combat veteran to hold the Commander position for the VFW.

The VFW celebrates 80 years of working for veterans and has grown into 6 districts, 39 posts, and 26 auxiliaries, with a total membership of over 9,800.



*Donna Barnett being sworn in as the new Commander for the VFW*

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary

During the same event Shirley Sousa was named the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary President.

Shirley Sousa is the proud mother of a three-time conflict veteran. She is dedicated to Honor Flights and helping veterans in the community

Established 1914, members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

#### The next event is the:

**Commander & Presidents Homecoming on August 1, 2015**

Post 9211

Reno, Nevada

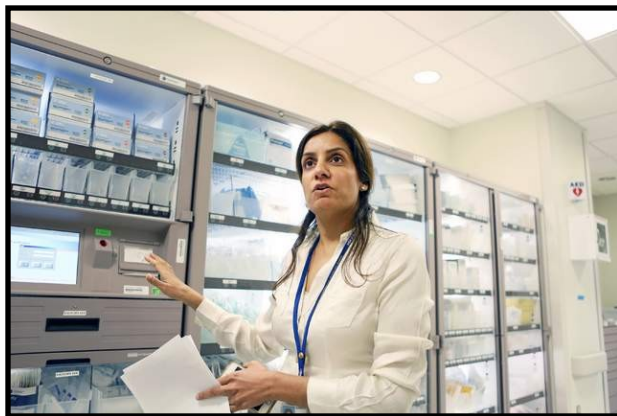
**To register:** <http://vfwnv.org/downloadable-forms/>

**Then select "CDR & PRES HOMECOMING REGISTRATION" under Department Forms**



## VA's Women's Health Center celebrating first anniversary

Article by Keith Rogers—LVRJ  
June 22, 2015



*Women's Health Medical Director Dr. Charu Dhingra Gupta, Women's Health Center at Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

Dr. Charu D. Gupta, medical director of women's health for the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, describes the 10,000-square-foot Women's Health Center on the third floor of the VA Medical Center in North Las Vegas as the best she's worked in of more than a dozen medical facilities.

"You come to one place and we take care of you in minimal time," Gupta said Monday, on the eve of the 1-year anniversary of the \$2 million Women's Health Center's opening.

On Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VA Medical Center, 6900 N. Pecos Road, in North Las Vegas, the staff and volunteers at the Women's Health Center will celebrate the 1st anniversary with an open house in hopes of recruiting more of Nevada's women who served to sign up for care.

Retired Navy veteran Sheila Tuttle calls it a life saver. Tuttle, a retired Navy chief who served from 1977 to 1997 — including tours in operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield — credits the Women's Health Center with "saving my foot, my back, my health." "This center not only saved my life several times but made it easy for me to get health care," she said. Until the center and its eight neighborhood clinics opened, "we had never had a place for women veterans to go."

Mari Skinner, a third generation Navy veteran, says its quality of care coupled with cutting-edge equipment is unmatched at any Veterans Affairs facility where she's been treated. Skinner, lauded the way the staff operates the center and ensures that special needs for gynecology, breast cancer and psychological issues are handled with speed and efficiency. "It's very private," she said. "I feel like I've been taken care of better than any VA facility I've been to."

The Women's Health Center features a state-of-the-art mammography tool for taking high-resolution, three-dimensional "tomosynthesis" images to detect breast cancer. That's in addition to 10 private examination rooms, two rooms for performing procedures, and a "telehealth" service facility where outside experts in genetics, ophthalmology, dermatology and other fields geared to women's health can connect with women veterans locally for examinations via data links without them having to travel to out-of-state facilities. Procedure rooms come with a special, \$13,000 camera, or colposcope, that allows a doctor to take a close-up look at cervical pre-cancerous cells.

Mental health experts are available at the center for advice on dealing with military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological issues.

The number of women veterans enrolled for health care in Southern Nevada has doubled from 3,000 in 2008 to 6,000 this year, or 10 percent of the some 60,000 veterans who have signed up to receive medical care in the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System.

Women Veterans Program Manager Carol Simenson notes that the 6,000 currently enrolled represent only one-third of roughly 18,000 who reside in the coverage area for the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System.

Gupta said the goal is to reach all of the local women who served and need care for issues ranging from breast and cervical cancer screenings to menopause and maternity care.

Her message to them: "You don't have to suffer in silence. There is hope, and we can help."

### WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Don't let PTSD control your life. There is hope.

Take the Step... Let VA help.

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere ★

Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more at [www.womenhealth.va.gov](http://www.womenhealth.va.gov)



## A bolt to the Blue: This history-making female pilot is making a difference

By Petula Dvorak - June 16, 2015

The most shocking thing about flying with Capt. Katie Higgins isn't surviving three G's when she rockets her monster airplane into the sky at 375 miles per hour, or going weightless four times when she dives it, amped on the squeals and screams coming from the passengers behind her. Or watching veteran troops who swaggered onto her C-130 cargo plane lose it in their barf bags, one after another.

The thing that makes your mouth drop is hearing Higgins tell you about the 1940s attitudes she slams into when she's on the ground. "I've had girls tell me that they didn't even know that ladies could fly aircraft or be in the military," said Higgins, who is not only a pilot who has logged 400 combat hours for the Marines. But she just made history as the first female Blue Angel.

Sure enough, the very first little girl I talked to at the Ocean City Air Show last weekend, who happened to love the Blue Angels and also happened to adore the very aircraft that Higgins pilots — the round-faced, big-bellied C-130 known as Fat Albert — thought men were the only ones who fly.

*"I didn't know girls can be pilots," said Grace McClung, 9, when I told her that a pilot named Katie would be flying her favorite plane. "Wow. So maybe I can be a pilot someday."*

Bingo. That's the magic right there. Putting a girl in that famous cockpit just smashed a few hundred years of jacked-up attitudes and did more for girl power than a thousand pink, sparkly T-shirts with cute sayings could ever do. "She broke two barriers. The sound barrier and the gender barrier," said Michael Masterson, a retired Air Force officer who is an air show regular and knew all about Higgins. "She has a hell of a lot of experience, and she can do the job," Masterson said. "Oh, she can do the job."

Besides her 400 combat hours in the cockpit, she's logged another 1,000 hours in flight. And on her Twitter feed, besides having sweet notes about her one-month wedding anniversary to a fellow pilot (#MRSHIGGINS), she says things like: "This time last year, I was landing in Uganda to evacuate the South Sudan embassy." She is also a legacy pilot — third generation. (Her brother went into explosives, so she's the one who carried on the tradition.) Higgins, 28, grew up a military kid, which means she has lived all over. She graduated from W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax and then went to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, so she considers Severna Park, where her parents live, her home town.

Seeing her dad fly the F-18 Hornet, the same kind of planes that are the Blue Angels' acrobatic show ponies, wasn't what inspired her to be a pilot, though. It was while she was a midshipman in Annapolis, after flying in her first non-commercial aircraft, that she decided to become a pilot.

Despite support, dealing with the role of gender and her place in American women's history remains a tightrope she carefully negotiates. Few people seem to know much about female pilots, present or past. There's some debate on which World War I fliers — Turkish aviator Sabiha Gökçen, Frenchwoman Marie Marvingt or Russian princesses Eugenie Shakhovskaya and Sophie Alexandrovna Dolgorunaya — were the world's first female combat pilots. The first licensed female pilot in America was Harriet Quimby in 1911. And remember the Women Airforce Service Pilots, better known as WASP? They flew every plane in the military — including experimental jets — yet none were considered military pilots. It wasn't until 1993 that the military allowed women to fly combat aircraft.

She smiled and encouraged, but was careful not to linger too long on the woman thing. And she was clear on one hope for the future. "When you're just there in the ready room, and you're not the 'Lady Blue Angel,' you're just another pilot," she said. "That's when we'll have reached true equality."



Capt. Katie Higgins. Photo Credit: Michael S. Williamson/  
The Washington Post

## Newest female four-star takes command of acquisitions program

By Phillip Swarts, June 10, 2015



(Photo: Wesley Farnsworth/Air Force)

The Air Force's newest female four-star general took command of the service's weapons acquisition program Monday.

Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski will lead Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, charged with testing, acquisition, installation and maintenance of current and future weapons systems.

She takes over command from Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger — the Air Force's first female four-star — who is retiring after 35 years of service.

"The fact that we're changing command from one woman to another is interesting, and it's historic," Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh said. "But it's not as cool to me as the fact that we're changing from one phenomenal leader to another."

Pawlikowski has spent much of her career dealing with research and acquisitions, including serving as the director of the Airborne Laser System Program Office, commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, and commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center.

Her previous posting was as the military deputy for William LaPlante, the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition at the Pentagon.

"I have seen what the AFMC men and women can do, and I'm excited about leading and working with you all to make this the most agile Air Force we've ever seen," Pawlikowski said at her swearing-in ceremony.

She takes command of an office with 80,000 people and a \$60 billion budget, according to Defense Department records.

## First enlisted female submarines selectees announced

By Mark D. Faram, Navy Times - June 22, 2015

Navy personnel officials have released the names of 38 enlisted female sailors who will train to be the first cadre of enlisted women to report for duty aboard a submarine. One senior chief petty officer, three chiefs and 34 other women in pay grades E-4 through E-6 will now get orders to report to submarine school to begin the process of qualifying in submarines. Applications were requested in January and selections began in April. All selectees will convert to a submarine rating as part of their qualification process. The enlisted women selected will begin to report to Michigan in fiscal 2016. In addition, some of the alternate sailors "may be called upon within 90 days to fill an assignment on USS Michigan if a primary selectee does not pass their submarine physical or are otherwise determined to be ineligible for assignment onboard submarines."

"These selections are a key milestone in the continued integration of the submarine force," Vice Adm. Bill Moran, chief of naval personnel, said in the message, "These sailors will be assigned to the first two of 18 submarine crews included in the initial integration plan. This initial cadre of enlisted women will integrate the ballistic missile submarine Michigan's Blue and Gold crews. As yet, officials have not released what other eight guided-missile or ballistic missile subs — 16 crews total — will add women in the years to come.

In January, the Navy announced those follow on crews would be integrated over roughly a five-year period through 2021. Then, starting in 2020, the Navy will begin to select women to begin the integration of Virginia-class fast attack submarines. Female officers have been assigned to SSGNs and SSBNs since 2011 and started to integrate the fast attack submarine Minnesota last fall and the USS Virginia this spring.

This selection includes women converting into the sub force's non-nuclear ratings. The Navy plans to select nuclear-trained female enlisted starting next spring and expects them to report to the boat starting in late 2016.



Photo Courtesy of Navy Times

## Buchanan's Bill to Replace DD-214 With Veterans ID Card Passes Senate Without Opposition

By Kevin Derby  
June 23, 2015

U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., introduced the Veterans ID Card Act earlier this year. Buchanan's bill would ensure all veterans receive ID cards from the VA instead of just those who served 20 years in the armed forces or are seeking medical treatment for service-related wounds. The House passed the bill with 402 representatives backing it and no votes cast against it.

In pushing his bill in recent months, Buchanan has noted veterans are forced to carry DD-214 paperwork, which contains sensitive information including Social Security numbers, and an ID card would be more convenient and would do a better job of keeping their personal information secure. "A simple, standardized ID card will make life easier for our veterans and serve as a reminder that our brave service men and women deserve all the respect a grateful nation can offer," Buchanan said on Tuesday.

"Veterans who have honorably served their country deserve to have a simple, straightforward way to prove their veteran status," Hardie said. "Veterans for Common Sense supports sensible legislation like Rep. Buchanan's Veterans ID Card Act."

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## Combating Veteran Suicide In Northern Nevada

By: Paul Harris  
June 04, 2015



RENO, NV - According to the state of Nevada, 130 veterans committed suicide in 2013, which is the last time data on this issue was released.

David Sousa is a member of the Nevada National Guard and was a military policeman assigned to the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. When he came back from his tour of duty, Sousa fell into a dark depression.

"I had several different options and one of them was to take my own life," Sousa said. "I had a couple times where I had the gun in my hand and I thought about, 'Hey what can I do to end this today?'"

Veterans advocate Kevin Burns says stories like Sousa's are all too common among northern Nevada veterans.

"You are dealing with issues of post-traumatic stress," Burns said. "You are also dealing with the last five to seven years in this state with the economic downturn. You had veterans coming home to no jobs. You had veterans coming home to high foreclosure rates."

According to a Center for Disease Control and Prevention report: Baby Boomers, many of whom are Vietnam veterans, have seen a 49-percent increase in suicide rates.

"You are looking at guys who are now approaching 65-70-75 years of age," Burns said. "Face it, they came home to an era that did not necessarily welcome them home. Many of them are dealing with physical issues now."

Sousa knew it was time to get help after his last tour to Afghanistan in 2013. "For me to get over those symptoms I went to telehealth through the VA," Sousa said. "They have some good PTSD coping strategies for anxiety."

The state is trying to increase its effort to help. Recently, legislation called AB93 passed the Assembly and Senate. A provision in the bill will require medical professionals to have suicide awareness training, regardless of their specialty.

"Within the week many veterans, in fact many people committed suicide, that week they saw somebody in the medical community," Burns said. "Whether it be a family practice doctor, whether it be a social worker. We want to raise the awareness in those communities so they can look for certain signs, so perhaps we can do an intervention and save some lives."

## Career Corner



**JOIN, Inc.** provides free, individual client services through an assigned Career Coordinator. This professional guides, coaches, and motivates each client in a confidential setting and maintains the client relationship from initial enrollment through the completion of career training and into employment.

**JOIN, Inc.'s** goal is to prepare each client to become gainfully employed in a skilled occupation that leads to a long-term career opportunity and financial security. **JOIN, Inc.'s** services are provided to individuals who are unemployed, receiving public assistance, dislocated due to a downsizing or a business closure, economically disadvantaged, out of school with or without a diploma, veterans, or the disabled.

### **JOIN, Inc.'s free client services may include:**

- Vocational assessments to determine interests and aptitudes
- Career guidance and Individual Training Plans
- Occupation-specific Training for licensure, certification, or accreditation
- Classroom training in interviewing, resume development, and presentation skills
- Professional Workshops
- Computer Training and Computer Time
- Basic Education Classes and High School Equivalency Preparation (in some locations)
- Support Services (child care, transportation, work clothing, etc.)

### **Join.inc has several locations in Northern Nevada**

#### **Carson City**

Address: 1925 North Carson Street Carson City NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 283-0125

#### **Elko**

Address: 618 Idaho Street, Suite Number 2 Elko, NV 89801  
Phone: (775) 753-1700

#### **Ely**

Address: 1502 E. Aultman St. Ely, Nevada 89301  
Phone: (775) 289-3061

#### **Fallon**

Address: 121 Industrial Way Fallon, NV 89406  
Phone: (775) 423-6162

#### **Fernley**

Address: 460 W Main St, Fernley, NV 89408  
Phone: (775) 575-1222

#### **ProNet**

Address: 1201 Terminal Way, Suite 100 Reno, NV 89502  
Phone: (775) 674-5408

#### **Reno/Sparks**

Address: 1201 Terminal Way, Suite 104 Reno, NV 89502  
Phone: (775) 336-4450

#### **Winnemucca**

Address: 705 E. 4TH Street Winnemucca, NV 89445  
Phone: (775) 623-6218



Las Vegas Career Fair  
August 20, 2015 - 11:00 am-2:00 pm  
Texas Station Casino at 2101 Texas Star Ln, North Las Vegas, NV 89032  
<http://www.nationalcareerfairs.com/career-fairs/las-vegas-career-fairs/>



The Veterans Employment Service provides one of the highest quality job referral and placement systems in the nation. Employer job orders immediately gain statewide exposure to Nevada's labor force. And, for hard-to-find specialized workers our affiliation with US Jobs offers exposure to employer job openings in employment service offices throughout the nation. **Visit:** <http://nevada.us.jobs/>

- FERNLEY - Mobile Equipment Mechanic and Maintenance Technician
- ELKO/ELY - Concrete Finisher, Housing/Building Maintenance, Helper, and Front Desk Clerk
- LV METRO - Auto Technician/Mechanic, Account Manager, and Cashier/Sales/Bilingual Spanish
- CARSON - Porter, Merchandise Associate, and Shuttle Driver



## Vegas PBS



## Veterans Coming Home™



Coming back to civilian life brings new challenges, new opportunities and new stories of remarkable courage and accomplishment. Public media tells those stories to help communities understand the veteran experience and, through Veterans Coming Home, public media connects veterans to resources and services for a successful transition to civilian life. **Visit:** <http://vegaspbs.veteranscominghome.org/>



Health



Education



Jobs



Families

Visit Vegas PBS' website that is dedicated to Veterans.

This website is full of information regarding health, education, careers as well as stories about fellow veterans.

## Green Zone Network

**Get Connected with your Veteran Community.**

Welcome to the Green Zone Network. Discover new information, start conversations, and get connected.

**For jobs and events in the community:** <http://www.greenzonenetwork.org/bulletin>

**Green Zone Network**  
*State of Nevada*

Search  Go

[Sign up for our newsletter!](#)

[Home](#) [Bulletin](#) [Directory](#) [Calendar](#) [Conversations](#)

**Get Connected with your Veteran Community.**

Welcome to the Green Zone Network. Discover new information, start conversations, and get connected.

**SIGN UP!**

## SAVE THE DATE

In support of women veterans, the Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS) will transport 45 women veterans who reside in the Elko Area to Salt Lake City via charter bus for a Women Veterans Celebration on November 10, 2015.

If you are a woman veteran living in Elko and would like to join us for the Grit to Glamour - Fatigues to Fabulous event in Salt Lake City

Please Contact:  
Women Veterans Coordinator:

Necole Stevens at  
702.791.9000 ext: 15518  
or by email at  
stevensn@veterans.nv.gov

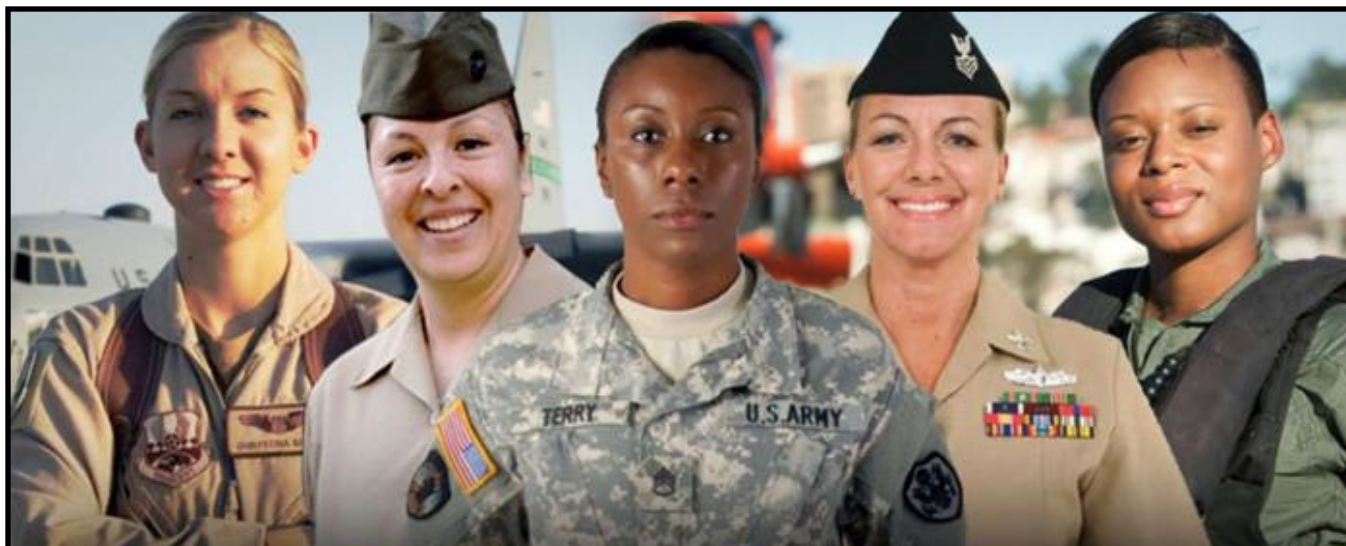
# FATIGUES TO *fabulous*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**10**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**2015**

**WOMEN VETERANS CELEBRATION  
GRIT TO GLAMOUR**

Enjoy dinner, meet new friends, hear from other inspiring female Veterans and then stick around for our Fatigues to Fabulous fashion show!

This free event is held in honor of veteran's day and honors the service of all women including active duty, National Guard and Reserves.



## Women Veterans Virtual Career Fair

August 18, 2015 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us for the first women veterans virtual career fair.

Connect live with recruiters from dozens of America's most veteran friendly companies, and from anywhere you are located in the world.

Register: <http://veteranrecruiting.com/careerfairs/women-veterans-virtual-career-fair/>



## Veteran Resources

If you know a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness, you can make a difference. VA provides extensive resources and support for Veterans through community partners and directly to Veterans facing homelessness. Everyone should know VA helps find housing for homeless Veterans. Help connect Veterans with the services they have earned.

Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless can call or visit local VA Medical Center, where homeless coordinators are ready to help.

**Veterans and their families may also call 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to access VA services.**

Explore [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless) to learn about VA programs for Veterans who are homeless and share that information with others.



HUD has allocated more than 58,000 Housing Choice vouchers across the country, which allows Veterans and their families to live in market rate rental housing while VA provides case management services. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the local public housing authority on behalf of the participating Veteran. The Veteran then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. The case management services facilitate the attainment of the Veteran's recovery goals. The HUD-VASH Program is for the most vulnerable Veterans, and provides special services for women Veterans, those recently returning from combat zones, and Veterans with disabilities. **Learn more at: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>**



*Stay*  
Connected

### Nevada Department of Veterans Services

1 (866) 630-VETS

1 (866) 630-8387

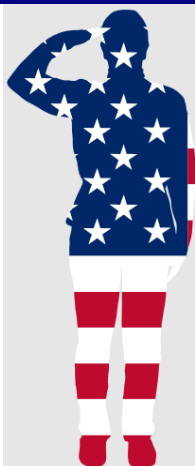
### Department of Veterans Affairs

1 (800) 827-1000

### VA Suicide Prevention Hotline

1 (800) 273-TALK

1 (800) 273-8255



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaWomenVeterans>



Twitter: [https://twitter.com/NDVS\\_WVC](https://twitter.com/NDVS_WVC)



Google+: <http://tinyurl.com/NDVSgpage>



Website: <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>



Instagram: [ndvs.wvc](https://www.instagram.com/ndvs.wvc)



Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/NVWVC/>



Email: [stevensn@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:stevensn@veterans.nv.gov)



## Strictly for Veterans

### National Veterans Educational Personnel Training Held at TMCC

The TMCC Veterans Upward Bound program conducted a two-day professional development conference: "The Art and Science of Program Success" at the Meadowood Center in Reno.

For more information see: <http://www.tmcc.edu/veterans-upward-bound/>



## The VA Community Resource and Referral Center

Provide service to assist, prevent or delay deterioration in function and or health status. Community referrals to include:

- Short and Long-term Case Management
- Psychological Assessment and Treatment Planning
- Educational and Treatment Groups
- Transitional Housing
- Dental Care program
- Veterans Re-entry Outreach Program
- Transportation
- Employment Referral
- Clothing
- Emergency Shelter
- Food bank
- Free meal listings



**Location:** 916 W. Owens Avenue (in the Nucleus Plaza), Las Vegas, NV 89106 **Phone:** (702) 791-9077

**Veteran Walk-in Business Hours:** 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM Monday-Friday, and (Wednesdays 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM)

[http://www.lasvegas.va.gov/locations/Healthcare\\_for\\_Homeless\\_Veterans\\_CBOC.asp](http://www.lasvegas.va.gov/locations/Healthcare_for_Homeless_Veterans_CBOC.asp)



### At the same location, the CRRC hosts: Veterans Ask-A-Lawyer

This program is for Veterans in our community seeking legal advice in various areas of law.

Attorneys will provide free 15-minute consultations.

This program is held at the VA Community Resource and Referral Center.

August 14, 2015 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Free for Veterans

916 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106

Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC).

Register in person at CRRC or by phone at 702-791-9077

## Google for Veterans

This site was made by some veterans, families of veterans and friends who work at Google. We understand the challenges of serving, coming home and transitioning to civilian life. We've been there. Some of us are still figuring it out. Here are some free Google products we've gathered together that have made our lives easier. Hopefully, they can do the same for you.

<https://www.googleforveterans.com/>

The Google Veterans Network is our employee volunteer community that strives to make Google a great place to work for those who have served, their families and their friends. We also aim to be a positive contributor to the veteran community at large. Google products and services have made our lives a little easier - whether we are still in the service, transitioning out, or on a new path in our civilian lives. We wanted to give back to the community and help other veterans and their families discover how useful these tools can be. So we created Google for Veterans and Families - a collection of free and useful tools from our veterans' community to yours.



## Strictly for Veterans



During the 78th Session of the Legislature for the State of Nevada, several Assembly and Senate Bills were presented.

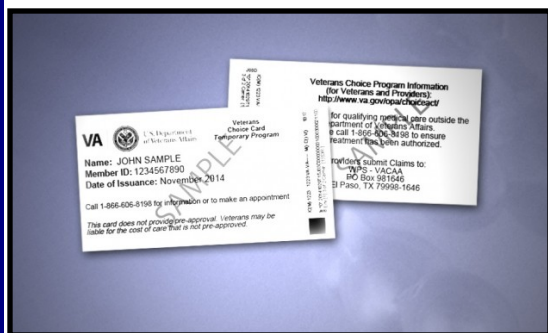
To review Assembly and Senate Bills, use the NELIS website for additional information:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015>

The following is a list of Assembly and Senate Bills the passed during the 78th Session for the State of Nevada Legislation.

- AB62** - Revises certain provisions relating to veterans.
- AB71** - Revises provisions relating to military veterans and members and relatives of members of the Nevada National Guard.
- AB76** - Makes various changes relating to the education of veterans and their dependents.
- AB89** - Makes various changes to provisions relating to certain professions.
- AB103** - Provides for the issuance of special license plates for veterans who are awarded the Silver Star or the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Combat V or Combat Distinguishing Device.
- AB140** - Revises provisions governing certain domestic relations matters involving veterans with a service-connected disability.
- AB184** - Revises provisions governing the involuntary commitment of certain persons to a hospital of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- AB241** - Creates the Women Veterans Advisory Committee.
- AB250** - Revises provisions relating to special license plates.
- AB294** - Enacts provisions relating to suicide prevention for veterans.
- AB327** - Makes an appropriation to the Eighth Judicial District Court for a Veterans Court Coordinator.
- AB471** - Revises provisions governing the Department of Veterans Services.
- AB482** - Revises provisions relating to veterans.
- SB268** - Temporarily provides certain services for veterans.

## What is the Veterans Choice Program?



If you are already enrolled in VA health care, the Choice Program allows you to get health care from non-VA doctors. Using this program does NOT impact your existing VA health care, or any other VA benefit.

You may be able to receive care from non-VA facilities, instead of waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

You are eligible if any of these situations apply to you:

- You have been (or will be) waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care
- You live more than 40 miles away from a VA medical care facility or face one of several excessive travel burdens.

The Choice Program does not impact your existing VA health care or any other VA benefit.

If you did not receive a Choice Card or if you cannot find your card, please call **1-866-606-8198** to learn more about eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program.

If you are satisfied with your wait time at a VA facility and wish to continue waiting for VA care, there is nothing you need to do at this time.

Care in the community is only covered by VA for medical needs which have been approved by your VA physician. We can happily schedule an appointment for other medical needs, but the VA can only cover the cost of care related to your VA-approved health needs.

The Veteran Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA).

To learn more: <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>



## Strictly for Veterans



### Veterans Reduced Fare Program

In response to the overwhelming number of veterans in Southern Nevada, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) has launched a Veterans Reduced Fare Program to meet the public transit needs of our veterans.

**Eligibility Requirement:** All Eligible local US Armed Forces veterans (Local veterans residing in Clark County)

**Reduced Fare Amount:** 50% off full-fare pricing structure.

Upon providing proof of eligibility, local veterans will be issued a RTC Veterans ID card that will allow them to purchase reduced fare on all fixed route fare types. The Veterans ID card can be issued at the RTC Bonneville Transit Center (BTC) and can be shown when purchasing reduced fare transit passes and swiped through the farebox when boarding.

Veterans Reduce Fare Program Proof of Eligibility Criteria:

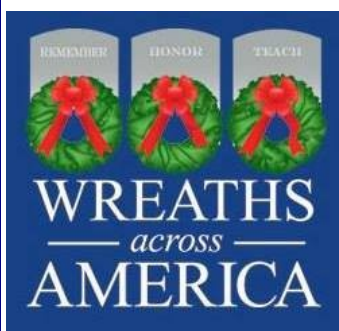
- ☐ Veterans ID Card from the Veterans Administration (VA)
- ☐ or DC Papers (DD214)
- ☐ or Military Retiree ID Card (if applicable)
- ☐ and Valid Nevada ID

**For more information, call customer service at 702-228-RIDE (7433).**



	SINGLE RIDE	2-HOUR	24-HOUR	15-DAY	30-DAY
Full Fare	\$2	\$3	\$5	\$34	\$65
Reduced Fare	\$1	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$17	\$32.50

## Wreaths Across America



Our mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies in Nevada.

We also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes and ceremonies.

The cost of our programs is paid by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate and volunteer donors.

**See more at: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>**

Our ultimate goal is to cover every grave site at the SNVMC and honor all the veterans interred within the cemetery.

That number is now over 5,500.

The public is welcome to attend and assist with placing the wreaths following the ceremony.





**Necole Stevens**

Women Veterans  
Program Coordinator  
Nevada Department  
of Veterans Services

**Southern Nevada  
Healthcare System  
North Las Vegas  
VA Medical Center**

**6900 N Pecos Rd  
No. Las Vegas, NV 89086**

**Phone: 702.791.9000  
ext 15518**

**Web Sites**

Green Zone Network  
“Get connected with  
the Nevada

Veteran Community”  
Employment, Education  
and Wellness

[www.greenzonenetwork.org](http://www.greenzonenetwork.org)

Nevada Department of  
Veteran Services General  
Information (866) 630-8387

Visit [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov)  
for information concerning;

Nevada State  
Veterans Home  
Southern and Northern  
Nevada Veteran

Memorial Cemeteries  
Veterans Rural Outreach  
“ROVER” Calendar



**“Serving America’s  
Heroes”**

## **Honoring Women Veterans**

At the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, we’re committed to delivering quality services to all Nevada veterans, and these pages will educate you – a woman veteran who proudly defended our freedom – about benefits and resources.



Women have served the cause of freedom in every war and every generation since the Revolution.

Those we honor number some 1.8 million, including nearly 24,000 women veterans currently residing in Nevada. Today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide is women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea and in the skies. More than 177,000 women from across the country have served as fighter pilots, medics, military police and in other roles since the start of the Global War on Terror.

It’s all too common for women veterans to pack away their uniforms and memories upon return to civilian life, never to discuss their experiences again. Many women who honorably served don’t even realize they’re veterans – or realize their eligibility for benefits. Through these pages, we acknowledge your service and offer several resources to help you understand your status and what it means. By working together, we will achieve success in establishing a network to further communication and women veterans outreach.

### **Vision**

Nevadans across the state understand and celebrate the legacy of America’s servicewomen and **all** Nevada women veterans understand and have access to benefits to which they are eligible.

### **Mission**

To provide women veteran benefit and activity information; resolve women veteran problems or refer veterans to NDVS service officers and other beneficial service providers for assistance; and to develop programs and activities that ensure Nevada women veterans understand, and are able to obtain, any aid or benefit to which they may be eligible.

## **Nominate a Woman Vet for Veteran of the Month**

To read the Veteran of the Month Guidelines  
and access submission forms please go to:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

## **Submit Pictures and Articles**

To submit articles and pictures for publication in the  
Women Veterans Informer please email the Women Veterans Coordinator at:  
[stevensn@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:stevensn@veterans.nv.gov)